



# ADAPT

## FREE OUR PEOPLE

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### Housing Issues for People with Disabilities

#### Affordability

The City should increase housing for people below 30% MFI. People on SSI have around \$603 a month or \$7,236 a year for income. This equates into less than 15% of Austin's MFI. According to HUD, the 2004 MFI is \$66,900 and \$14,950 is 30% MFI for 1 person. As you can see this is almost 2 ½ times the amount a person on SSI receives. People who earn 60% MFI have an income of \$40,140 and those earning 80% have incomes in excess of \$53,000. In addition, HUD states the Fair Market Rent for the Austin/San Marcus area is \$686 a month at 50% MFI. As you can see a person earning 60 or 80% MFI can easily afford to pay the rental amount whereas a recipient of SSI would have to pay everything he/she receives in rent with nothing left for other bills. Therefore, the current policy of targeting people who earn 60 to 80% MFI results in little if any new housing for people with disabilities and low income wage earners. These facts leads to the conclusion the city should be targeting people at the lower sphere of the income bracket. One way the City should increase housing for people below 30% MFI is to target housing that is built with AHFC money to that population.

**Homebuyer Housing Assistance for People with Disabilities** is important and needs to be supported. We were glad to see it included in the plan.

#### Integration

People with disabilities need to have the same choices as the rest of the population when it involves finding a place to live. Housing that segregates people based on a particular disability should need must not be accepted much less encouraged by the policy and procedures of a governmental agency. Tight fiscal times should not drive us to create housing that will segregate people decades to come.

#### Accessibility